

KENT
BRICK

THUNDERBOLTS

MARVEL
1



ROSENBERG • FERREYRA

IN MEMORIAM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIOT R. BROWN

MIKE HOBSON 1936–2020



Last month, longtime Marvel Comics Publisher Mike Hobson passed away. In remembrance of his life and work, Mike's friend and colleague Tom DeFalco, former Marvel Editor in Chief, shared his memories of the Marvel luminary.

Many are the unsung heroes of the comic book industry. These people are the hidden giants who work behind the scenes — without credit, fanfare or fame — but are essential to the creation of your comics. They are people like Mike Hobson.

As a supervisor at Marvel, Mike was the greatest. He encouraged initiative, listened with an open mind and always supported his people. He rarely raised his voice and had a near-magical way of defusing tense situations. (Mixing creative people with those from marketing, sales or accounting is usually a recipe for disaster.)

Mike defined the word “gentleman.” He was refined and soft-spoken, had an infectious laugh and was an intriguing conversationalist, well-versed in a variety of subjects. He knew the best restaurants, the tastiest dishes, the most flavorful wines and the finest hotels. An invitation to dine with Mike was always a treasured event. He was the adult we all wanted to be when we grew up.

Whenever I think of Mike, two occasions spring to mind. One is the very first time Marvel sent me on a business trip by myself. Mike asked to see me before I left. I went to his office with pen and pad, expecting some last-minute business instructions. Instead, he told me to make sure I made lunch and dinner reservations and gave me a list of restaurants.

I also recall sitting in my office one afternoon when a furious Mike burst in.

“Do you know what those two idiots are doing?” He asked.

“Which two idiots?” I responded.

Mike glared at me for a moment and then suddenly exploded in unrestrained laughter. He actually fell into my couch, and it took him several minutes to regain control. It seems two of my editors had stuck a fishing pole out our seventh-floor window with an old Milky Way for bait and were trolling for passersby. While Mike could appreciate the humor in the situation, he felt our editors needed to adhere to a higher standard of professionalism. That was Mike.

Mike Hobson was my boss and my friend. He will be missed.

Tom DeFalco
November 2020



**KING
IN
BLACK**

FOR MILLENNIA, THE SYMBIOTE GOD KNULL WAS IMPRISONED AT THE
EDGE OF THE GALAXY. BUT HE'S JUST BEEN FREED AND HAS UNLEASHED
AN INNUMERABLE HORDE OF DRAGONS ON EARTH! THANKS TO KNULL'S
DESTRUCTIVE FORCES, THE WORLD HAS BEEN ENVELOPED IN DEADLY SYMBIOTE
GOO. THE WORLD NEEDS SAVING. THE WORLD NEEDS...

THUNDERBOLTS

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JUAN FERREYRA ARTIST
VC'S JOE SABINO LETTERER

KYLE HOTZ & DAN BROWN
COVER ARTISTS

BERNARD CHANG;
RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

PATRICK McGRATH KING IN BLACK LOGO DESIGN
JAY DOWEN KING IN BLACK TRADE DRESS DESIGN
ANTHONY GAMBINO PRODUCTION DESIGN

SHANNON ANDREWS BALLESTEROS
ASSISTANT EDITOR
JAKE THOMAS EDITOR
C.B. CEDULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

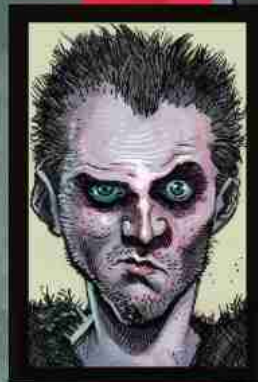
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the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions
in this magazine with those of any living or dead
person or institution is intended, and any such similarity
which may exist is purely coincidental.

AS HAS BEEN REPORTED ELSEWHERE, I PERSONALLY ASSEMBLED A GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUALS, EACH WITH A UNIQUE SKILL SET, DESIGNED TO HELP SAVE OUR CITY AND EVEN THE PLANET.

UNDER MY GUIDANCE, THESE MEN AND WOMEN, FORMER CRIMINALS ALL, AGREED TO PUT THEIR PASTS BEHIND THEM AND FIGHT FOR ALL OF OUR FUTURES. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES **THE THUNDERBOLTS**.

ON MY ORDERS, THEY EMBARKED ON A TOP SECRET MISSION. MANY OF YOU WITNESSED THE RESULTS THIS EVENING. THE OUTCOME ISN'T ASSURED JUST YET, BUT IT'S CLEAR THIS WAS THE TURNING POINT OF THIS WAR.

BUT NOW IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I REPORT THAT THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THAT MISSION. **THE THUNDERBOLTS ARE DEAD**. BUT THEY WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR WHO THEY WERE IN THEIR FINAL MOMENTS. THEY WERE--



--SCUMBAGS, LOWLIFES AND TWO-BIT PIECES OF #@%\$ WHO WOULDN'T BE MOURNED BY A SINGLE SOUL IF THEY VANISHED OFF THE GODFORSAKEN PLANET TONIGHT!

A FEW DAYS EARLIER.

STILL DRESSING LIKE ME, MR. FEAR?

I WAS DOING THIS WAY BEFORE YOU, TASKMASTER.

I'M SPEAKING!

YOU'VE ALL BEEN OPERATING IN MY CITY WITHOUT PERMISSION. YOU OWE ME.

BUT I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS. A GIANT ALIEN GOD NAMED KNULL HAS COME HERE TO KILL EVERY LIVING THING, AND IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE HE CAN DO IT.

YOUR DEFINITION OF GOOD NEWS AND MINE ARE A BIT DIFFERENT.

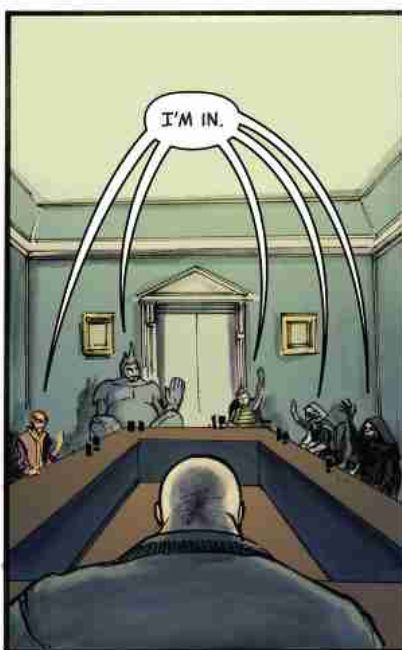
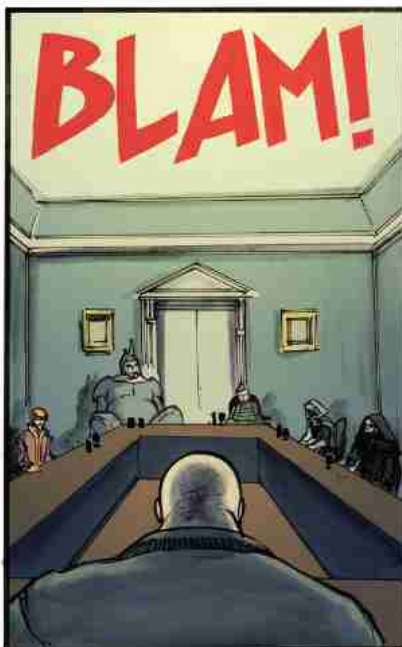
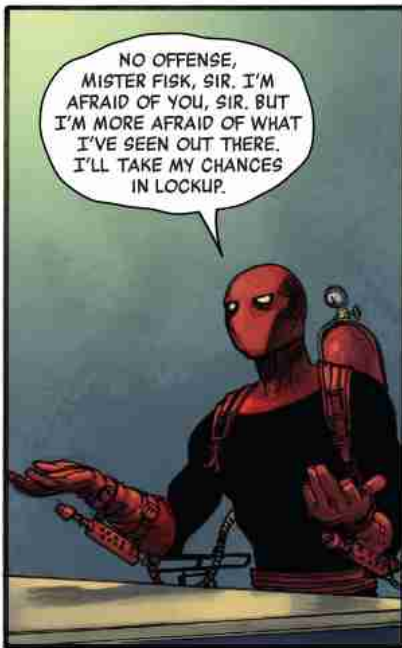
YOU'RE NEW HERE, STAR, SO I'LL FORGIVE THE INTERRUPTION. IT'S GOOD NEWS BECAUSE THIS IS HOW YOU BEGIN TO PAY BACK WHAT YOU OWE.

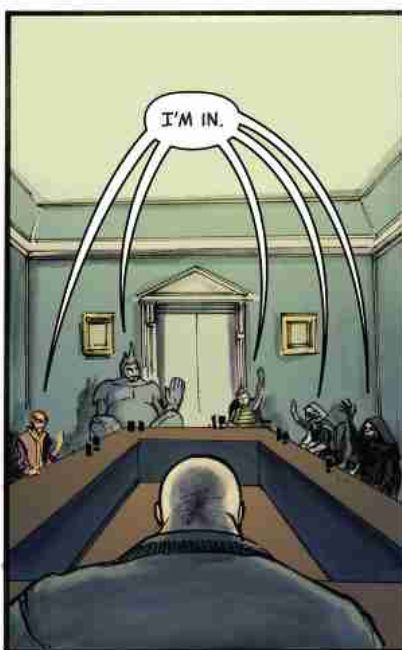
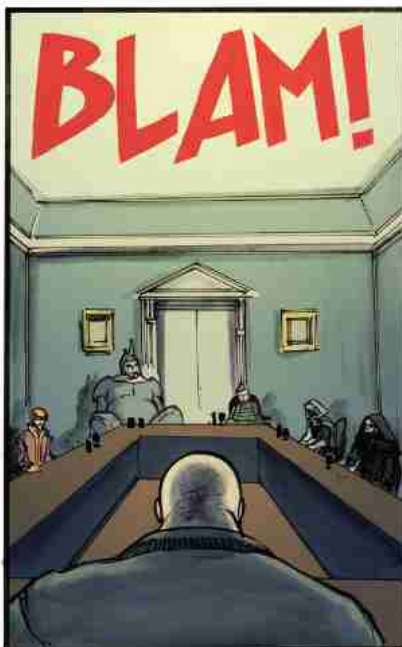
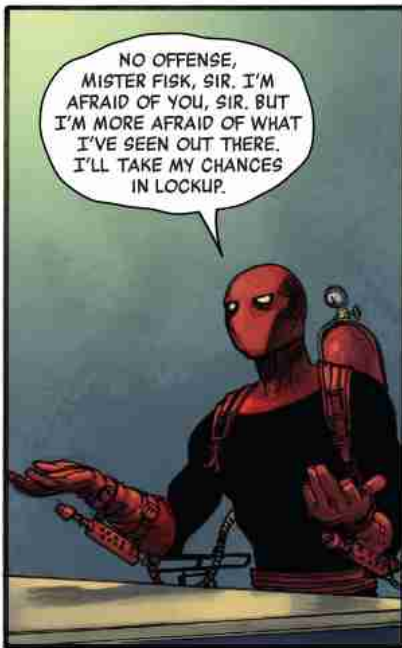
NOW YOU WORK FOR ME. STOP THIS #@\$%, SAVE THE WORLD, BECOME A HERO, PARADES AND ALL THAT... AND I MAKE YOU RICH.

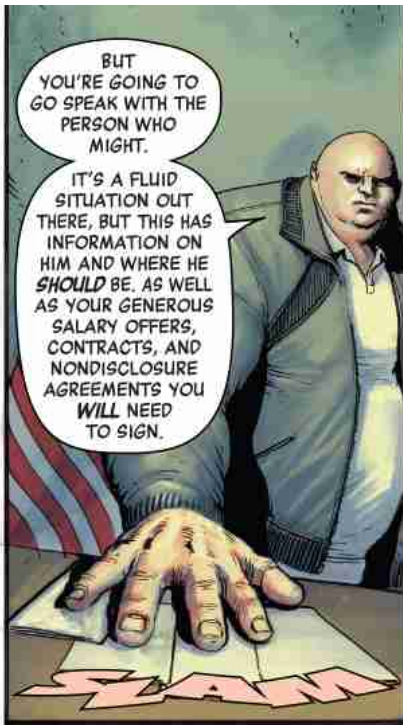
OR?

OR I SEND YOU TO PRISON RIGHT NOW AND WAIT FOR KNULL TO COME KILL YOU IN YOUR CELL.

I WENT ALL THE WAY OUT TO THAT BAR TO GET YOU MYSELF, STAR. DON'T MAKE ME REGRET THAT.







BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GO SPEAK WITH THE PERSON WHO MIGHT.

IT'S A FLUID SITUATION OUT THERE, BUT THIS HAS INFORMATION ON HIM AND WHERE HE *SHOULD* BE. AS WELL AS YOUR GENEROUS SALARY OFFERS, CONTRACTS, AND NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS YOU *WILL* NEED TO SIGN.



HIM? IS THIS A JOKE?

DO I SEEM LIKE I AM IN A JOVIAL MOOD, TASKMASTER?

I CAN NEVER TELL WITH YOU.



HEY, I KNOW EVERYONE HERE...EXCEPT HER. WHO'S SHE?

THE NAME IS STAR--



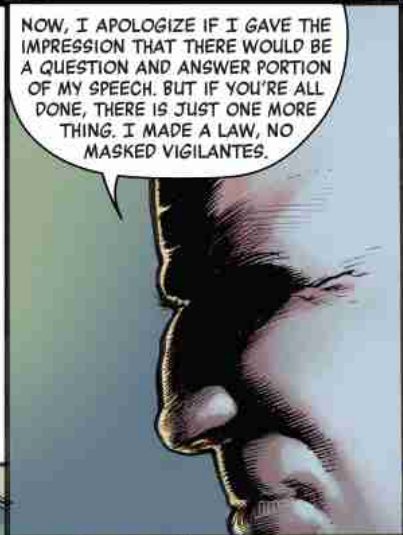
IF ANY OF YOU STAND EVEN A CHANCE OF STOPPING THIS THING, IT'S HER.

CORRECT.

SO SHE'S A HEAVY?

THEN WHY ARE WE HERE?

YOUR JOB, MISTER FEAR, IS TO DO *WHATEVER* IT TAKES TO MAKE CERTAIN STAR DOESN'T DIE BEFORE SHE GETS A CHANCE TO KILL THIS KNULL CREATURE.



NOW, I APOLOGIZE IF I GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE A QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION OF MY SPEECH. BUT IF YOU'RE ALL DONE, THERE IS JUST ONE MORE THING. I MADE A LAW, NO MASKED VIGILANTES.



YOU WORK FOR ME, YOU DON'T HIDE.

SHOW YOUR FACES.



ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR DAMN MIND... UMM...SIR?

NO.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

"YOU REPRESENT *ME* OUT THERE. THAT MEANS YOU LOOK *AND ACT* THE PART. SO WHATEVER STUPID IDEAS YOU HAVE ABOUT AN EASY PAYDAY, BANISH THOSE AS WELL. IT'S TIME TO GROW UP, GENTLEMEN. CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING FOR ONCE IN YOUR MISERABLE LIVES."

"IF WE'RE HEROES NOW, WE GOT A TEAM NAME, MISTER FISK?"

"YOU ARE THE THUNDERBOLTS."

"ARE YOU @#&%#@% SERIOUS?"

"IT IS A RESPECTED NAME WITH A LONG LEGACY, TASKMASTER."

"WASN'T IT ORIGINALLY A SCAM STARTED BY A NAZI PRETENDING HE WAS A GOOD GUY SO HE COULD TAKE OVER THE WORLD?"

"MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT IS A NAME I OWN THE COPYRIGHT TO."

WE NEED A BETTER NAME. WE'RE FINALLY HEROES, RIGHT? REPRESENTING *JUSTICE* AND *HOPE* OR SOME @#&%#?

WE SHOULD CALL OURSELVES *THE HOPE LEAGUE!*





KEEP MOVING.
DON'T LET IT GET
CLOSE. THIS THING
MUST HAVE A
WEAK SPOT.

WHY
MUST IT?

HOW'S
SNAKEHEAD?

VERY
DEAD.





THAT
ANSWER YOUR
QUESTION ABOUT
WHY I'M
HERE?

YEAH,
PRETTY MUCH.

GOOD.
THEN...



...WE
SHOULD...



EASY, MADAME.
PERHAPS THAT WAS
TOO MUCH, NO?

BIG BLAST...
JUST NEED A
SECOND...



SNAKEHEAD'S DEAD AND
OUR BIG GUN JUST
FAINTED. I'M OUT.

IF WE'RE DOING
THIS, WE'RE GONNA
NEED ALL THE POWER
WE CAN GET.

THEN I GUESS
WE AREN'T
DOING IT.

IF THE WORLD DOESN'T
END, FISK CAN DEAL
WITH ME WHEN HE
FINDS ME.



ACK--!

I'LL
SAVE HIM
THE TROUBLE,
COWARD.









THESE THINGS
DON'T STOP COMING.
JESS, YOU SHOULD
GET OUT OF
HERE.

I CAN
HANDLE MYSELF. IF
YOU'RE SO WORRIED,
WHY DON'T YOU
TAKE OFF?

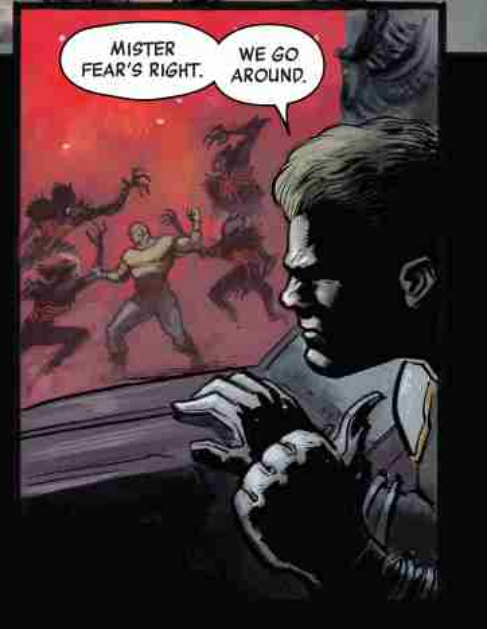
HEY,
CAN I
GO?



SHOULDN'T
WE HELP THEM?
WE'RE ON THE
SAME SIDE
NOW.

...YEAH.

YOU'RE SERIOUSLY
GONNA RISK YOUR LIFE
FOR THOSE THREE JOKERS?
THEY'D LOCK EVERY ONE
OF US UP OR PUT US IN THE
GROUND IF THEY GOT
THE CHANCE.



MISTER
FEAR'S RIGHT.

WE GO
AROUND.

WE'RE
SERIOUSLY NOT
GOING TO HELP
THEM?

THEY HAVE
THEIR MISSION,
AND WE HAVE
OURS. I'M NOT
JEOPARDIZING
IT FOR THEM.

THEY
COULD HELP
US.

LET IT
GO, BLONDIE.
@#\$\$% THEM.

PARDON THE
INTERRUPTION OF
YOUR LOVERS' QUARREL,
BUT WE HAVE
COMPANY.

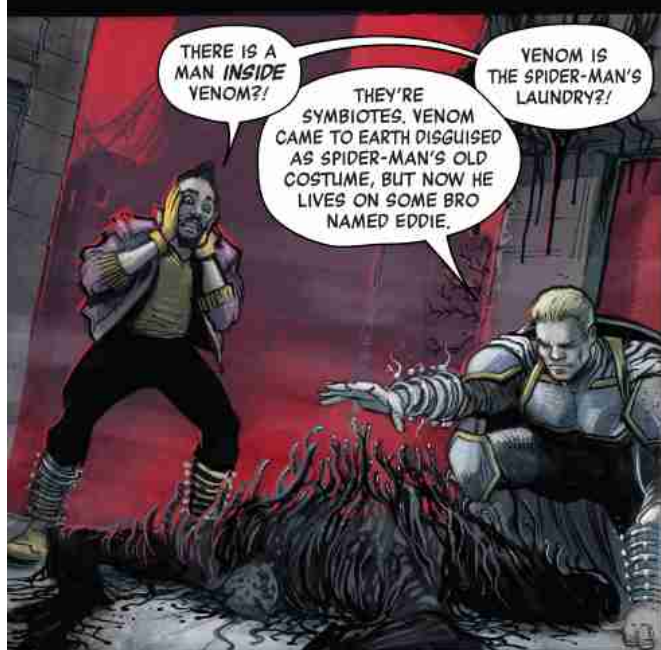
UGGH. IT'S
LIKE A DRIPPY
SPIDER-MAN.
WHAT DO
WE DO?

IT IS NOT
BOTHERING US.
PERHAPS WE LIVE
AND LET LIVE?

I HAVE
CHANGED MY
MIND.

OooF!















CHECKLIST

☒ **VENOM #32**

REST IN PEACE.

☒ **RETURN OF THE VALKYRIES #1**

THE VALKYRIES MUST SAVE THE SOUL OF THE SENTRY!

☒ **SPIDER-WOMAN #8**

JESSICA DREW BREAKS BAD AS DARKNESS FALLS ON MANHATTAN!

☒ **SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #3**

SPIDER-MAN TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE TO THE SEVERED HEAD OF A CELESTIAL, BETTER KNOWN AS KNOWHERE!

☒ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #10**

THE GUARDIANS WEREN'T FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE EARTH FROM KNULL—BUT CAN THEY SAVE THEMSELVES?

☒ **KING IN BLACK: GWENOM VS. CARNAGE #1**

A BATTLE OF THE BANDS LIKE NO OTHER: GWEN STACY VS. MARY JANE WATSON!

☒ **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #3**

TIDES RISE AS NAMOR'S SECRET PAST SPILLS OVER!

☒ **KING IN BLACK: PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES #1**

THE SYMBIOTES SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH? NOT IF SCREAM CAN HELP IT!

☒ **KING IN BLACK: THUNDERBOLTS #1**

WILSON FISK, MAYOR OF NEW YORK, HAS TAKEN MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS...BY ASSEMBLING A TEAM OF VILLAINS TO SAVE NEW YORK!

☐ **S.W.O.R.D. #2**

TO SAVE THE GALAXY, THEY MUST SAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN!

☐ **THE UNION #2**

THE GLOBAL ASSAULT OF SYMBIOTES SPARES NO VICTIMS!

☐ **KING IN BLACK #3 (PICTURED)**

WHAT'S A GOD TO A KING?

☐ **DAREDEVIL #26**

MATT MURDOCK AND ELEKTRA MUST EACH FACE THE DELUGE OF SYMBIOTES CONSUMING THE CITY!

☐ **BLACK CAT #2**

FELICIA IS TASKED WITH SAVING DOCTOR STRANGE—WITH ANTI-VENOM?!

☐ **DEADPOOL #10**

MONSTERS BEWARE—IT'S KING VS. KING FOR STATEN ISLAND!

☐ **KING IN BLACK: BLACK KNIGHT #1**

DANE WHITMAN, THE BLACK KNIGHT, LEARNS THE HORRIBLE HISTORY OF HIS LINEAGE AND THE EBONY BLADE!

☐ **RETURN OF THE VALKYRIES #2**

THE VALKYRIES LEARN MUCH MORE IS AT STAKE THAN JUST EARTH WHEN THEY FIND A LARGE LOOMING SPIRIT ABOVE THE PLANET!

☐ **SAVAGE AVENGERS #17**

CONAN AND DEADPOOL BREAK OUT OF RYKER'S AND ENTER THE FRAY OF SYMBIOTE DRAGONS!

**KING
IN
BLACK**

**NEXT:
KING IN BLACK:
THUNDERBOLTS #2**



